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Geneva, 2-27 July 2001
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2001 in section I and the annotations to the provisional agenda in section II.

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I. Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2001 of the Council has been drawn up on the basis of the list of items approved by the Council at its organizational session for 2001 (decision 2001/202).

Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2001

1. *Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.*

High-level segment

2. The role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council;

   (b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme;

   (c) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

Coordination segment

4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: the role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.

Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

General segment

6. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits.

7. Coordination, programme and other questions:

   (a) Reports of coordination bodies;

   (b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

   (c) Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS);

(d) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields;

(e) International cooperation in the field of informatics;

(f) Long-term programme of support for Haiti;

(g) Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera.

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B.

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

10. Regional cooperation.

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

12. Non-governmental organizations.

13. Economic and environmental questions:

(a) Sustainable development;

(b) Science and technology for development;

(c) Statistics;

(d) Human settlements;

(e) Environment;

(f) Women in development;

(g) Transport of dangerous goods;

(h) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(i) Population and development;

(j) Energy and natural resources for development;

(k) Public administration and development;

(l) Cartography;

(m) international cooperation in tax matters;

(n) United Nations Forum on Forests

(o) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;

(p) Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

14. Social and human rights questions:

(a) Advancement of women;

(b) Social development;

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) Narcotic drugs;

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(g) Human rights.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

At its organizational session for 2001, the Council approved the provisional agenda for its substantive session (Council decision 2001/202).

In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2), should any proposals be submitted for the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda, they will be circulated as soon as they are received, and a supplementary list of items will be issued as an addendum to the provisional agenda.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, the Council will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on proposed themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the substantive session of 2002 of the Council.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on proposed themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the substantive session of 2002 of the Council

A. High-level segment

2. The role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council will devote the first day of the high-level segment to a high-level policy dialogue with the executive heads of international trade and finance institutions on key issues on the global economy.

At its resumed session of 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided that the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2001 would be devoted to the consideration of the following theme: "The role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development" (Council decision 2000/303).

The theme is relevant and complementary to General Assembly resolutions 53/92 and 54/234, both entitled "The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa", in which the Assembly, inter alia, supported the harmonization of current and international initiatives on Africa and welcomed the Council's decision to hold a high-level segment on Africa in 2001.

The Council will have before it a report containing an overview of Africa's development prospects, the role of the United Nations system in support of the efforts of the African countries for sustainable development, including the implementation of Africa's vision, and the promotion of coherence, harmonization and coordination of United Nations work in Africa as well as the work of other non-United Nations bilateral and multilateral partners, building upon the report of the Secretary-General (E/54/133-E/1999/79) prepared for the coordination segment of 1999 of the Council and the 2000 progress report of the Secretary-General (E/2000/69).

The theme is also highly relevant to the one-day policy dialogue with the executive heads of international financial and trade institutions, and should therefore be a focus of that dialogue in 2001.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary General, the *World Economic and Social Survey, 2001*, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 118 (II) and 52/180 and Council resolution 1983/50, and the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its third session (Council resolution 2000/34).

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/217, the Council will consider, at its substantive session of 2001, the proposals of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa contained in chapter IV of its report (A/55/45, Supplement No. 45), including the creation of an ad hoc advisory group on countries emerging from conflict.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development

World Economic and Social Survey, 2001

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its third session (Council resolution 2000/34)

Report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa (A/55/45) (General Assembly resolution 55/217)

B. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

In resolution 53/192, paragraph 64, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session, through the Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

In paragraph 63 of the same resolution, the General Assembly decided, as an integral part of the next triennial policy review of operational activities, to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the field of operational activities, and requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Council at its substantive session of 2001, on the results of such an evaluation, including lessons learned and recommendations made, for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

At its substantive session of 2000, the Council, in its resolution 2000/19, paragraph 16, requested the Secretary General, in the context of the next triennial policy review, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Council, on the progress in the implementation of the multi-year funding frameworks, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the strategic resource management in the funds and programmes and to reverse the declining trend in core resources.

At its organizational session for 2001, the Council decided that the theme for the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2001 would be "Triennial policy review of operational activities for development" (Council decision 2001/205).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system (Council resolutions 2000/19, 2000/20, and General Assembly resolution 53/192) and addenda

(b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

The Council will also have before it the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, and the report of the Secretary-General on issues arising from the Executive Boards of United Nations funds and programmes, including their overall financial picture, as well as the annual reports of the four funds and programmes.

At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided, in order to ensure an effective and efficient interaction between the Assembly, the Council and the individual Executive Boards, that each Board would submit an annual report on its programmes and activities to the Council at its substantive session (Assembly resolution 48/162, annex I, para. 29). At its substantive session of 1994, the Council requested the United Nations development funds and programmes, through their Executive Boards, to include in their annual reports to the Council, which should have a common structure: (a) a section outlining measures taken in the implementation of the provisions of the triennial policy review of operational activities; and (b) a section on the activities and measures undertaken within the designated theme for the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment (Council resolution 1994/33).

At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly invited the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of these funds and programmes included in their annual reports to the Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programme, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to international conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role (Assembly resolution 53/192, para. 59).

Documentation

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session, its second regular session and its annual session

Annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first regular session and its annual session

Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on its 2001 sessions

Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme

(c) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries is entrusted with the overall intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries within the United Nations system. It reports to the General Assembly through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (Assembly resolution 33/134). The Committee meets once every two years in odd-numbered years.

Documentation

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its twelfth session (A/56/39, Supplement No. 39)

C. Coordination segment

4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: the role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector

At its resumed substantive session of 2000, on 18 October 2000, the Council decided on the following theme for the coordination segment of its substantive

session of 2001: "The role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector" (Council decision 2000/303).

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the subject. This report aims to assist the Council in its deliberations on the above theme and to explore the theme in an integrated manner focusing on how the Organization's development role, the effectiveness of its development activities and its support for national development strategies and programmes can be enhanced and strengthened by promoting access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies, through building partnerships, in particular with the private sector.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the coordination segment

Note by the Secretary-General on proposed themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the substantive session of 2002 of the Council

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Council (see also agenda item 6)

D. Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

At its organizational session for 2001, the Council decided that the theme of the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Council would be "Strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations" (decision 2001/206).

At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the Emergency Relief Coordinator to prepare an annual report for the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, including information on the central emergency revolving fund, to be submitted to the Assembly through the Council (resolution 46/182, annex, para. 35 (i)).

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly welcomed the holding of the third humanitarian affairs segment of the Council during its substantive session of 2000 and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly through the 2001 substantive session of the Council, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including the implementation of and follow-up to Council agreed conclusions 1998/1 and 1999/1. In the same resolution, the Assembly also invited the Council to continue to consider ways to enhance further the humanitarian affairs segment of future sessions of the Council (Assembly resolution 55/164).

In accordance with Council resolution 1983/46, the Secretary-General apprises the Council annually on the status of the assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the further progress in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

E. General segment

6. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 50/227, the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the coordination segment should be followed up in the general segment of the following year.

In its coordination segment of 2000, the Council undertook an assessment of the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda, and adopted agreed conclusions 2000/1 (A/55/3/Rev.1, Supplement No. 3, chap. V). The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions.

In its coordination segment of 2000, the Council also undertook an assessment of the progress made within the United Nations system, through the conference reviews, in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, based on a report of the Secretary-General (E/2000/57), and adopted agreed conclusions 2000/2 (A/55/3/Rev. 1, Supplement No. 3, chap. V). In these agreed conclusions, the Council, inter alia, invited its functional commissions to consider a number of options, including those listed in the Secretary-General's report, for ensuring an effective and comprehensive review at the intergovernmental level of major United Nations conferences and summits, and to inform the Council for its consideration at its substantive session in 2001 of the outcome of their discussion. The Council also invited the commissions to give particular attention to the question of periodicity of conference reviews. In that context, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on the different options, including a compilation of the views expressed by the functional commissions. The Council will have before it the report requested.

At its substantive session of 2000, the Council adopted the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment (A/55/3/Rev.1, Supplement No. 3, chap. III) on development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy, in which it requested the Secretary-General to initiate, on an urgent and priority basis, all necessary steps to implement the declaration, and to submit a progress report to the Council at its substantive session of 2001. The Council will have before it the report requested.

As a follow-up to the ministerial declaration, subsequently endorsed by the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, and also in accordance with Council resolution 2000/29, a worldwide consultation process has been undertaken to obtain the views and ideas of Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders on the establishment of an Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force. A report of the Advisory Group to the Secretary-General summarizing the outcomes of the consultation process and containing the Group's recommendations

was presented to the Secretary-General. Following, and based on, the report of the Group, the Secretary-General submitted his report on the constitution of the ICT Task Force to the Council at its resumed organizational session for 2001, held on 8 March 2001, for its approval. In decision 2001/210, the Council took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General (E/2001/7); requested the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary steps to establish the ICT Task Force; and also requested him to submit a report on the implementation of decision 2001/210 to the Council at its substantive session of 2001.

In resolution 2000/27, the Council requested the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, with the support of the United Nations Statistics Division of the Secretariat, to review as a matter of urgency the common country assessment indicator frameworks and report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2001. The Council will have before it the report of the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, with the participation of the World Food Programme.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of agreed conclusions 2000/1 of the coordination segment of the Council on the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of agreed conclusions 2000/2 of the coordination segment of the Council on the assessment of the progress made within the United Nations system, through the conference reviews, in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in particular the views expressed by the functional commissions

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Council (see also agenda item 4)

Report of the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes on the review of the common country assessment indicator frameworks

7. Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

The Administrative Committee on Coordination will submit an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the Administrative Committee on Coordination machinery in 2000.

The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-first session (Headquarters, 11 June-6 July 2001) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 2000

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-first session (A/56/16)

(b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General will circulate the sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 covering activities in the economic, social and human rights fields. The Council will consider the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter, with a view to submitting its own recommendations thereon to the General Assembly (Council resolution 1988/77).

Documentation

Relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-first session (A/56/16)

(c) Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS)

At its substantive session of 1999, the Council took note of the change in name of the programme, from the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome to the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS). It urged co-sponsoring organizations and other organizations of the United Nations system to complete the development of their institutional strategies and to submit to their governing bodies their proposed contributions to the United Nations system strategic plan for human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) for 2001-2005. It requested UNAIDS to transmit the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations and the Programme Coordinating Board to the Council and to the governing bodies of the co-sponsoring organizations. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to transmit to it at its substantive session of 2001 a comprehensive report prepared by the Executive Director of the Programme in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, which should also include the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (Council resolution 1999/36).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of UNAIDS

(d) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

The Council will be required to approve its calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2002 and 2003 (Council decision 52 (LVII)).

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Committee on Conferences, to each subsidiary organ of the Assembly and the Council on the cost of the conference services it utilized in the year concluded in order to enable those organs to plan more effectively (Assembly resolution 51/211 C).

Documentation

Draft calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2002 and 2003

(e) International cooperation in the field of informatics

At its substantive session of 2000, the Council requested the President of the Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out its work of facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to use of information technology; and called upon the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2001 on the follow-up action taken on the resolution, including the findings of the Working Group (Council resolution 2000/28).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) *Long-term programme of support for Haiti*

At its substantive session of 2000, the Council took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (E/2000/63) presented to it in accordance with Council resolution 1999/11, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its next substantive session on steps taken by the Haitian Government, the United Nations system and the international community towards the elaboration of a long-term programme of support for Haiti and on practical modalities for its implementation (Council decision 2000/235).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera

At its substantive session of 1998, the Council urged the Director-General of the World Health Organization to continue to provide, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund and other concerned United Nations agencies and programmes and other relevant international organizations, technical expertise and support to endemic countries; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2001 a progress report on the implementation of

the resolution, to be prepared by the Director-General of the World Health Organization in collaboration with other relevant organizations, organs, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system (Council resolution 1998/36).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

At its substantive session of 2000, the Council had before it a report of the Secretary-General on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions (A/55/180-E/2000/67 and Corr.1), a note by the Secretary-General transmitting an informal summary of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, held on 18 April 2000 (E/2000/79) and the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Council (E/2000/85). Having deferred consideration of this item to the resumed substantive session, the Council, at its organizational session for 2001, again decided to defer consideration of the item to its resumed organizational session for 2001, and entrusted its Vice-President with responsibilities for the general segment to undertake informal consultations on this item.

The annual special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions is scheduled to take place at United Nations Headquarters on 1 May 2001.

In Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/41 of 26 July 1996, adopted pursuant to its consideration of the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive document compiling information on the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies and to submit it to the Council. Consequently, a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields" (E/1996/97) was presented to the Council at its resumed substantive session of 1996, together with an addendum (E/1996/97/Add.1), providing further information on the working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups of the Council. Since that time, the number, structure and terms of reference of subsidiary organs have evolved in the context of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields carried out by the Council and the Assembly. The 1996 report has been updated to reflect the status of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly in the economic, social and related fields. It is intended as a reference tool, providing in a readily accessible format information on the intergovernmental and expert machinery in these fields.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

Consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 2001

Note by the Secretary-General on the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions

Report by the Secretary-General updating document E/1996/97 and Add.1 on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields.

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Assistance to the Palestinian people. At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its fifty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of Assembly resolution 55/173 on the subject.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. At its substantive session of 2000, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and to report thereon to the Council; and requested the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2001 (Council resolution 2000/30). At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (Assembly resolution 55/139).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

10. Regional cooperation

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein.

The Council will also have before it *the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions* prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions. At its first regular session of 1979, the Council decided to discontinue the submission to it of the reports of the regional commissions (Council decision 1979/1). The reports are transmitted directly to all Member States. The Secretary-General, in his *annual report on regional cooperation*, in addition to reporting on the meetings of the executive secretaries, highlights developments within each region and draws the Council's attention to specific issues requiring its consideration. The report of the Secretary-General will bring to the Council's attention any decisions or recommendations of the regional commissions that statutorily require approval by the Council. A section of the report will deal with a subject relating to interregional cooperation of common interest to all regions (Council decision 1982/174).

At its substantive session of 1999, the Council requested the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project on a *Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar* and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2001 (resolution 1999/37).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation

Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 2000

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 2000

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Asia and the Pacific, 2001

Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2000

Summary of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 2000

Note by the Secretary-General on the project for a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

At its substantive session of 2000, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-sixth session, through the Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution and to continue to include, in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies (Council resolution 2000/31). The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 55/209 on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

12. Non-governmental organizations

Pursuant to its resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31, the Council will consider the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the work of its 2001 session (New York, 7-25 May 2001) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council decided that the Committee should meet annually (Council decision 1995/304).

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2001 session

13. Economic and environmental questions

(a) Sustainable development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its ninth session (New York, 16-27 April 2001). The provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2000/227.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Committee for Development Policy on the work of its third session (New York, 2-6 April 2001). At its substantive session of 2000, the Council decided to defer to its next substantive session the consideration of the recommendation to graduate Maldives from the list of the least developed countries and requested the Committee at its third session to re-examine its recommendation in that regard. The Council requested the Secretary-General, in the context of the Committee's recommendation to graduate Maldives, to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 46/206 and to make recommendations on additional measures that could be taken to ensure a smooth transition from least developed country status for graduating countries. The Council looked forward to the report being prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the benefits derived by the least developed countries on the basis of their inclusion in the list of the least developed countries and on the practical impact of the measures in favour of least developed countries, including an assessment of the implications of graduation for Maldives (Council resolution 2000/34).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its ninth session (E/2001/29, Supplement No. 9)

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its third session (E/2001/33, Supplement No. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved in the implementation of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 46/206 and on the recommendations on additional measures that can be taken to ensure a smooth transition from least developed country status for graduating countries

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the benefits derived by the least developed countries on the basis of their inclusion in the list of the least developed

countries and on the practical impact of the measures in favour of least developed countries, including an assessment of the implications of graduation for Maldives

(b) Science and technology for development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the work of its fifth session (Geneva, 28 May-1 June 2001). The provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1999/274.

In resolution 55/185, the General Assembly requested the Commission to report, through the Council, to its fifty-sixth session, in particular regarding proposals aimed at promoting complementarity of activities in the area of new and innovative technologies within the United Nations system; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Council, an analytical report on the progress made in the implementation of resolution 55/185, containing, in particular, concrete proposals for strengthening the critical role of the Commission in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in support of the efforts of developing countries to obtain, effectively utilize and benefit from science and technology for their development.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fifth session (E/2001/31, Supplement No. 11)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordinating role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

(c) Statistics

The Council will consider the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-second session (New York, 6-9 March 2001) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2000/228.

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-second session (E/2001/24, Supplement No. 4)

(d) Human settlements

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its eighteenth session (Nairobi, 12-16 February 2001).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its eighteenth session (A/56/8, Supplement No. 8)

(e) Environment

The Council will review the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session (Nairobi, 5-9 February 2001). In doing so, the Council will consider only specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the coordination aspect of the work of the Governing Council. The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme reports to the General Assembly through the Council (Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), sect. I, para. 3). The Governing Council meets every two years in odd-numbered years.

Protection against products harmful to health and the environment. The question of the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceutical products has been considered by the General Assembly since its thirty-fourth session, in 1979 (Assembly resolution 34/173). In resolution 39/229, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through the Council, to inform the Assembly every three years about the implementation of that resolution and of Assembly resolutions 37/137 and 38/149. These resolutions form the mandate for the issuance of regular updates of the *Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments*. They also address the need to keep the format of the List under continuing review, in cooperation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, with a view to its improvement, taking into account its complementary nature, the experience obtained and the views expressed by Governments. At its forty-fourth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in the context of the preparation of his next scheduled report on the question, to make specific suggestions on ways and means of providing technical cooperation, inter alia, through appropriate United Nations organizations, to countries, in particular developing countries, to create and strengthen their capacity to utilize the Consolidated List; and to study all the pending issues, such as sustainable alternatives to banned and severely restricted products and unregistered pesticides, with a focus on improving the usefulness of the Consolidated List (Assembly resolution 44/226, sect. II).

The Council last considered this topic at its substantive session of 1998 (see Council resolution 1998/41).

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Council, on the implementation of the resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (Assembly resolution 55/197).

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session (A/56/25, Supplement No. 25)

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/197 entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon"

(f) Women in development

For the consideration of this sub-item, the Council will have before it the relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-fifth session.

Documentation

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-fifth session

(g) Transport of dangerous goods

The Council, at its 1999 substantive session and resumed substantive session, adopted two resolutions on this question. In the first, entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods", the Council requested the Secretary-General to publish the eleventh revised version of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, as amended, and a third revised edition of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria* (Council resolution 1999/62). In the second resolution, entitled "Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals", the Council decided to reconfigure, as from 2001, the Committee and for its Subcommittee (Council resolution 1999/65).

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

(h) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990. The Assembly adopted the International Framework of Action for the Decade, in which, inter alia, the Secretary-General was requested to report biennially to the Assembly, through the Council, on the activities of the Decade (Assembly resolution 44/236, annex).

At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Council, a report on the implementation of the international strategy for disaster reduction (Assembly resolution 54/219).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the international strategy for disaster reduction

(i) Population and development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Population and Development on the work of its thirty-fourth session (New York, 2-6 April 2001).

The provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2000/233.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-fourth session (E/2001/25, Supplement No. 5)

(j) Energy and natural resources for development

At its substantive session of 1998, the Council merged the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources and named the new committee the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development (Council resolution 1998/46, annex I).

At its substantive session of 1999, the Council decided that the dates of the second session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development should be brought forward to 14 to 25 August 2000, after which the Committee would continue to meet biennially, with its third session to be held in 2002 (Council decision 1999/276).

At the second meeting of its organizational session for 2001, the Council decided to defer consideration of the item to a later date.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development on its second session (E/2000/32, Supplement No. 12)

(k) Public administration and development

At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly endorsed Council decision 1998/220 requesting the Secretary-General to conduct a five-year assessment of the progress made in the implementation of Assembly resolution 50/225, and to report his findings to the Assembly through the Council in 2001 (Assembly resolution 53/201).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(l) Cartography

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (New York, 22-26 January 2001) (decision 1997/292).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

(m) International cooperation in tax matters

The Secretary-General reports to the Council on the progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters following each

meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (Council resolution 1980/13). At its organizational session for 2001, the Council decided to approve the holding of the tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts in Geneva from 10 to 14 September 2001 instead of in New York from 23 to 27 April 2001 (Council decision 2001/208).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its tenth meeting

(n) United Nations Forum on Forests

At its resumed substantive session of 2000, the Council decided to establish an intergovernmental body called the United Nations Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body of the Council. The United Nations Forum on Forests will report to the Council and, through it, to the General Assembly and will initially meet annually (Council resolution 2000/35). The United Nations Forum on Forests held an organizational session on 12 and 16 February 2001. The Council will have before it the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its organizational and first sessions (New York, 11-22 June 2001).

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its organizational and first sessions (E/2001/42 (Parts I and II))

(o) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

At its substantive session of 2000, the Council decided to continue consideration of the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, taking into account the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council (Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/32). At its fifty-fifth session, the Assembly decided to transmit the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the question, together with the relevant background materials, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001 (Assembly resolution 55/157).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/55/295 and Add.1)

Note by the Secretary-General on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

(p) Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

At its organizational session for 2001, the Council had before it a note by the Secretariat (E/2001/3) in which the Secretary-General proposed the inclusion under item 13 of the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2001 (Economic and environmental questions) of an additional sub-item entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism". The Council subsequently adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2001, including the aforementioned sub-item, as contained in document E/2001/1 (Council decision 2001/202).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

14. Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). The Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was established under article 17 of the Convention for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention. Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall report annually on its activities to the Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-fifth session (New York, 6-16 March 2001). The provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2000/237.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its twenty-first session. The Institute functions under the authority of a Board of Trustees, which reports annually to the Council. At its substantive session of 2000, the Council urged the Secretary-General to continue to invite Member States to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women so that it could continue to fulfil its mandate beyond 2000, and to encourage other relevant sources of funding within the United Nations to contribute to the restructuring of the Institute; and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its substantive session of 2001 on the implementation of the resolution (Council resolution 2000/24).

At its substantive session of 1999, the Council, recalling its resolution 1996/34 on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001, in which it had called for a new draft plan to cover the period 2002-2005, invited the Secretary-General to formulate the plan for 2002-2005 in two phases, the first phase consisting of an assessment of activities undertaken by the United Nations system, to be submitted to the Council through the Commission on the Status of Women in 2000, and the second phase consisting of a new plan for 2002-2005 to be submitted to the Council through the Commission in 2001 (Council resolution 1999/16).

In its resolution 50/203, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Commission on the Status of Women and to the Assembly, through the Council, on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly, the Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly (Assembly resolution 55/71).

The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution S-23/3, adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-third special session, on 10 June 2000. In the annex to that resolution, the Assembly encouraged the Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to build up a database to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by agencies or organizations of the United Nations system would be listed, and to facilitate their dissemination, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/56/38 (Part I))

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-fifth session (E/2001/27, Supplement No. 7)

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its twenty-first session

Report of the Secretary-General on the revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General on a new draft system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

(b) Social development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-ninth session (New York, 13-23 February 2001). The provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2000/238. The report of the Commission will include appropriate suggestions and recommendations to further the contribution of volunteering to social development, as requested in General Assembly resolution 55/57.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General, prepared in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Member States and with other relevant organizations and bodies, on a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade, with a draft plan of action and possible time frame for such a decade, on the basis of the outcomes of the World Education Forum and the special session of the General Assembly for the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development (Assembly resolution 54/122).

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 54/123 on cooperatives in social development.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 (General Assembly resolution 54/124).

At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis (Assembly resolution 44/56). The Council will have before it the *2001 Report on the World Social Situation*, submitted to the Assembly through the Commission for Social Development and the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-ninth session (E/2001/26, Supplement No. 6)

Report of the Secretary-General on a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 54/123 on cooperatives in social development

Report of the Secretary-General on the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 (A/56/57-E/2001/5; E/CN.5/2001/4)

2001 Report on the World Social Situation

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its tenth session (Vienna, 8-17 May 2001). The provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2000/239.

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/61 on an effective international legal instrument against corruption. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene an intergovernmental open-ended expert group to examine and prepare draft terms of reference for the negotiation of the future legal instrument and requested the expert group to submit the draft terms of reference, through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Council, to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session for adoption. The open-ended expert group is scheduled to meet in Vienna from 30 July to 3 August 2001.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its tenth session (E/2001/30, Supplement No. 10)

Report of the open-ended expert group containing draft terms of reference for the negotiation of the future international legal instrument against corruption

(d) Narcotic drugs

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-fourth session (Vienna, 20-29 March 2001). The provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 2000/240.

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board. In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and article 23, paragraph 1, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 2000.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-fourth session (E/2001/28, Supplement No. 8)

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports annually to the General Assembly through the Council, in conformity with paragraph 11 of the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex).

At its fifty-first session, in 1971, the Council decided that the report of the High Commissioner should be transmitted to the General Assembly without debate, unless the Council decided otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of its agenda (Council resolution 1623 (LI), sect. II).

At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, and to present an oral report to the Council at its substantive session of 2001 (Assembly resolution 55/77).

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/91, paragraph 16. In that resolution, the Assembly proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, beginning in 1993, and adopted the Programme of Action for the Decade contained in the annex to the resolution. The Assembly entrusted the Council and the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, with the responsibility for coordinating the programmes and evaluating the activities undertaken in connection with the Decade; and requested the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, analysing the information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination.

The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 55/84.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

(g) Human rights

The Council will have before it the general comments of the Human Rights Committee. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 23 March 1976. The complete report of the Committee is submitted to the Assembly pursuant to Council decision 1985/105.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions (Geneva, 25 April-12 May 2000 and 13 November-1 December 2000). The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was entrusted by the Council, as from 1987, with overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolution 1985/17). It will be recalled that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 3 January 1976. Under article 16 of the Covenant, States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit to the Secretary-General reports on the measures that they have adopted and on the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant. The Secretary-General is required to transmit copies of the reports to the Council for its consideration.

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-seventh session (Geneva, 19 March-27 April 2001). The report of the Commission is expected to include its response to General Assembly resolution 55/119, in which the Assembly decided to keep the situation of human rights in Afghanistan under consideration at its fifty-sixth session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council.

The Council will also have before it the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; it also decided, inter alia, that the High Commissioner would be the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. The Assembly requested the High Commissioner to report annually on his/her activities, in accordance with his/her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Council, to the Assembly (Assembly resolution 48/141).

Documentation

Report of the Human Rights Committee

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-seventh session (E/2001/23, Supplement No. 3)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights